

The invention claimed is:

1. A pipeline with a bituminous composition laminated onto a surface thereof, wherein said composition comprises particulate fillers having thermal conductivity less than 0.24 BTU-ft/hr-ft⁻¹°F,

2. The pipeline of claim 1 wherein said fillers comprise a fibrous material.

3. The pipeline of claim 1 wherein said fillers comprise elastomeric particles.

4. The pipeline of claim 1, wherein said fillers comprise cellular material.

5. The pipeline of claim 4, wherein said cellular filler comprises closed-cell material.

6. The pipeline of claim 4 wherein said cellular material comprises a porous or open-cell material or aggregate, wherein porosity is fine enough that the bituminous binder seals the voids.

7. The pipeline of claim 1, wherein said fillers comprise a tubular material.

8. A pipeline with a bituminous composition laminated onto a surface thereof, wherein said composition comprises a polymeric modifier that forms a network of continuous phases, wherein bitumen is one of said continuous phases, and wherein said modifiers enhance the dimensional stability of the bitumen in said composition at the operating temperatures and loads imposed by the pipeline.

9. The pipeline in claim 8 wherein said polymeric modifiers comprise polyolefin polymers.

10. The pipeline of claim 9 wherein said modifiers comprise atactic polypropylene polymer.

11. The pipeline of claim 10 wherein said modifiers comprise a combination isotactic and atactic polypropylene.

12. The pipeline of claim 11 wherein said composition comprises styrene block co-polymers.

23

13. A pipeline with a bituminous composition laminated onto a surface thereof and mechanical means for preventing said pipe from moving under its weight relative to said composition, said composition being applied to a thickness that will substantially inhibit heat transfer between the contents of the pipeline and the environment.

14. The pipeline of claim 13, wherein said means for keeping the pipe from moving through said insulating composition is a sleeve positioned along said pipeline, and adjacent to said insulating composition, said sleeve being held in a fixed position relative to, and spaced away from said pipeline by mechanical means that contact said pipe and said sleeve.

15. The pipeline of claim 14 wherein said sleeve is comprised of a cool stratum of said insulating composition that is mechanically stable enough that said mechanical means can react against it to contain a warmer stratum and inhibits or retards movement of the pipe through said warmer stratum for long periods of time.

16. The pipeline of claim 15 wherein said mechanical means for holding said sleeve in a fixed position relative to said pipe comprises wood.

17. The pipeline of claim 15 wherein said mechanical means for connecting said sleeve to said pipeline comprises at least one of a plurality of insulating layers at least 3 mm thick, the first layer being around and adjacent to said pipe.

18. The pipeline of claim 17 wherein at least one of said layers is a porous insulating material that is dimensionally stable at the operating temperature of the pipeline.

19. The pipeline of claim 18 wherein said porous insulating material comprises light weight concrete.

20. A bundle of pipelines comprising at least one fluid carrier pipe that is thermally connected by a thermally conductive medium to a heating element, heating pipe or other means for adding heat to said fluid carrier pipe, and wherein said assembly of pipes

and heating elements is surrounded and insulated from the surroundings by at least one layer of a bituminous composition.